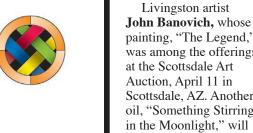
More Congrats to ...



Exposure

to the arts

in the National

A new question

Endowment for the

Arts' 2012 Survey of

Public Participation in

the Arts revealed that

adults who attended

performing arts or

visited museums as children were three

to four times as likely

to see shows or visit

museums as adults.

Exposure to the

arts in childhood

turns out to be a

stronger predic-

tor of adult arts

age, or income.

participation than

education, gender,

For more see arts.

gov/artistic-fields/

research-analysis/

arts-data-profiles/

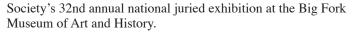




"The Legend" by John Banovich

the Prix de West Art Exhibition, June 12 – 13 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, OK; and in the Coeur d'Alene Art Auction, July 25 in Reno, NV.

Livingston artist Paul Tunkis, whose watercolor, "Osprey Nestling," was selected for "Arte de Avian," a national juried exhibition on display March 13-April 26 at the Tubac Center for the Arts in Tubac, AZ. The painting also won an award at "Watermedia 2014," the Montana Watercolor



Helena artist Karen Luckey, who had three paintings selected for the 19th annual Heartland Exhibition, March 7-April 11 in Merriam, KS. Titles are "Crab Apple Tree," "Look Out" and "Bucket of Flowers."

Steve Glueckert, senior exhibition curator at the Missoula Art Museum, who will receive the 2015 MAM Award during a reception June 17. Glueckert, an active visual artist, will retire the end of June after 23 years with the museum. The MAM Award is given to a museum supporter in recognition of exemplary dedication, generosity, and service to the Missoula Art Museum. "We can't think of a person who embodies those ideas more than Steve," says director Laura Millin. "During his tenure at MAM, Steve has touched so many of us artists, musicians, patrons, and co-workers alike."

Helena scholar John A. Vollertsen, who won first place in the western nonfiction category of the 2015 USA Regional Excellence Book Awards for the collection of essays he compiled, Landscape and Legacy: The Splendor of Nature, History, and Montana's Rocky Mountain Front. According to the judges, Vollertsen's work "truly captured the spirit of the West region of the United States and the excellence that this award was created to celebrate." This western spirit, along with Vollertsen's lifelong passion for the Front, inspired him to create a book celebrating the mountain range. The book's 17 essays cover topics from geology to grizzly bears, and from Native American history to conservation ethics. The Front and its flora and fauna have long been under threat from overuse and misuse. "The principal reason for writing this book can be summed up in one word - advocacy," says Vollertsen in the book's introduction. His sentiment is echoed in each essay, as the authors speak of how their lives were touched by the Front, and of a need to preserve that magic for future

Eric Hyyppa, director and general manager of MontanaPBS, based at Montana State University, who has been elected chairman of the board of trustees of the Association of Public Television Stations. Hypppa became director and general manager of KUSM, Montana PBS in 2008. He graduated from MSU with a bachelor's degree in computer science, and then joined KUSM as its computer system administrator in 1993. He was named the station's information technology manager 10 years later. During more than 22 years

at the public television station, he has also worked independently for every major network and many independent companies. He's also chairman of the board of directors of the National **Educational Telecommunications** Association, chairs public television's Affinity Group Coalition, and serves on the board of directors of the Montana Broadcasters Association and the Friends of MontanaPBS. He's also a member of the Montana Ambassadors.

Paul Decker of Music Villa in Bozeman, who was elected to the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Board of Directors during the annual show in Carlsbad, CA. The Montana retailer will serve a three-year term helping to guide the global musicproduct industry. Decker took over Music Villa from his father more than 15 years ago, and during that time has established the Bozeman store as a thriving music school, a full-line, independent musical instrument store, and a vibrant hub for local musicians. He also works with local artists to help them network with other musicians through Montanabands.com and MontanaMusicians.com, sites created and maintained by his web team. A drummer since childhood, Decker has performed with several bands including Little Jane and The Pistol

Whips, and is currently a member of The Kris Clone Band. He's also a member of the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce and the Bozeman Downtown Association, and serves on the marketing committee of The Alliance of Independent Music Merchants.

The recipients of the Missoula Cultural Council's annual Arts and Culture Awards, presented during a luncheon March 24 in Missoula. This year's Cultural



Paul Decker

Achievement award went to William Marcus, director of the UM Broadcast Media Center and Montana Public Radio/Montana PBS. The Individual Artist Award went to **Stephen Kalm**, internationally acclaimed opera performer and dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at The University of Montana. The Arts Educator Award was presented to Karen Kaufmann, a professor of dance at

UM and director of Co-Motion Dance Project and MoDE (Montana's Model Dance Education Project). Receiving recognition for Business Support for the Arts was the **Downtown Dance** Collective. The Cultural Vision Award was given to the Missoula Children's Theatre for 45 years of theatre programming in Missoula and around the globe. "These outstanding individuals and organizations have all made tremendous contributions,

helping to make Missoula a very special place to work and live," said Tom Benson, director of the Missoula Cultural Council.



"Osprey Nestling" by Paul Tunkis

TRANSITIONS

Welcome to two new staff members at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings: development director Ashley Fagerstrom-Ündes and community and volunteer coordinator Ashley Pratt. Fagerstrom-Ündes is a Billings native who spent the last eight years working in the nonprofit sector, either as development director or executive director for organizations across the U.S., handling fundraising,



Ashley Fagerstrom-Ündes

marketing, special events, and public relations duties. In her role as development director for Family Support Network in Billings, she played a key role in the development of program structure and funding for the Montana Children's Trust Fund Child Abuse Prevention Program.

Pratt is a recent Rocky Mountain College graduate with double English degrees. She has worked in various local businesses – from breweries and restoration companies to tree nurseries - and interned with Sally McIntosh at the Ryniker-Morrison Gallery at RMC. The opportunity to work in an art museum is something she's sought



Ashley Pratt

for many years, since volunteering at the Buffalo Bill Center of the

Welcome to Jessica Vizzuti, who joins the staff at the Montana Museum of Art and Culture at The University of Montana in Missoula as the new publications and programs coordinator. She brings a decade of experience working in media and arts administration to the museum. She replaces Shawn Whitworth, who has moved on to a position with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at UM after four years of dedicated service to the museum.



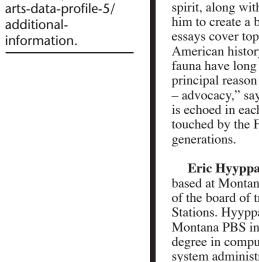
Jessica Vizzuti

Welcome to **Dodie Rife**, the new managing producer for NOVA Center for the Performing Arts in Billings. After an extensive national search and review process, Rife was chosen for her abilities in theatre

and her passion for education. She has been involved on the production side of many operas produced by Rimrock Opera and NOVA. Rife replaces Craig Huisenga, who is cutting back on his duties due to family commitments. Huisenga will continue to serve NOVA as a director, actor, teacher, and member of the artistic committee. "Dodie's experience will make her a great addition to the team," he said.



Dodie Rife



Eric Hyyppa (Photo by Kelly Gorham)